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ORGANIZATION MANUAL

Functions and organization of the

DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION
AND POLICY ANALYSIS

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S BULLETIN

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To: Members of the staff

Subject: DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS

1. The present bulletin establishes the current functions and organization of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

2. Document ST/SGB/Organization, section K, of February 1976 is partially superseded.

Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
Secretary-General

DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION
AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Overview

The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis was established on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the second phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/47/753 of 3 December 1992), combining statistical and population related activities, and by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/212 A of 23 December 1992 on the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

The basic mandate for "a central statistical unit in the Secretariat" and the programme on population, were established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second sessions and by Council resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946, respectively. The preparation of "a survey of current world economic conditions and trends annually", as the core of the programme on global development issues and policies, was requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 118 (II) of 31 October 1947.

Mandate

The broad functions of the Department are as follows:

To assist Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private sector entities in determining development priorities at the international, national and local levels and to contribute to devising policies and measures for fulfilling them;

To compile, improve and disseminate economic, social and population statistics and to provide substantive support to the pertinent intergovernmental machinery, including the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development;

To analyse long-term economic, social and population trends;

To monitor and assess, from a global perspective, economic, social and population policies;

To elaborate economic, social and population projections and to identify new and emerging issues requiring attention by the international community;

To execute technical cooperation projects in the areas of statistics and population;

To provide substantive support to the pertinent intergovernmental machinery, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development.

Organizational elements and their functions

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Performs the functions of a head of department/office, as described in the introductory section of the Manual. In addition:

Advises the Secretary-General on the policies of the United Nations in the areas of economic and social information and policy analysis and provides information, views and proposals regarding these issues;

Represents the Secretary-General, as required, at meetings and conferences, including the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), dealing with international economic and social issues of concern to the United Nations.

A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Performs the functions of a staff office as described in the introductory section of the Manual. In addition:

Assists the Under-Secretary-General in the overall direction, supervision and management of the Department for the implementation of its mandates and approved programme of work;

Provides general support to the Under-Secretary-General in the formulation and implementation of policies, practices and activities for the Department and in liaison with Governments, other United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia;

Coordinates with other departments of the Secretariat and the regional commissions on issues of common concern;

Provides support to the Strategy Management Group, comprising staff of the Department at different levels, which reviews, on an ongoing basis, various aspects of the Department's activities and provides advice on improving its efficiency and effectiveness;

Carries out special projects assigned by the Under-Secretary-General and produces, on a monthly basis, a newsletter entitled DESIPA in Brief.

B. Executive Office

Performs the function of an administrative/executive office, as described in the introductory section of the Manual. In addition:

Handles administrative and financial matters for the regular programme of technical cooperation and projects funded under the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the areas of statistics and population.

1. MACROECONOMICS DIVISION

The Division is responsible for the preparation of global economic and social surveys and projections that are designed to assist the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in discussing development issues and in achieving international cooperation in seeking solutions to problems of economic and social development. It carries out analyses of a broad range of macroeconomic issues, examines long-term trends and projections to identify new and emerging issues, particularly those arising from the integration of the world economy.

The Division consists of two components, namely, the International Economic Relations Branch and the Projections and Perspectives Studies Branch.

1.1. International Economic Relations Branch

Undertakes analysis and assessment of major issues in the world economy with special emphasis on economic relations between countries and groups of countries, as reflected in such areas as trade and resource flows, and on their implications for international and national actions;

Monitors and evaluates the performance and policies of major economies and groups of economies;

Contributes to the review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of Developing Countries;

Undertakes research and analysis to monitor the external debt situation in its various aspects, and to search for new approaches and development strategies to resolve the external debt crisis of developing countries and some other countries with serious debt-servicing problems;

Prepares, annually, the World Economic and Social Survey, to which all its sections provide substantive inputs.

1.2. Projections and Perspectives Studies Branch

Prepares short-term projections for the world economy and various groups of countries, using the econometric models and semi-annual meetings of project LINK;

Carries out quantitative analyses of long-term macroeconomic and sectoral trends and policies to assist Member States in monitoring the implementation of the International Development Strategy;

Undertakes periodic reviews of long-term structural changes and other trends in the world economy to assess consistency among various international and national development policies and related targets and goals set by the United Nations;

Evaluates long-term development perspectives at global, regional and national levels using econometric models designed to integrate macroeconomic and sectoral economic analyses and projections into a comprehensive multisectoral framework;

Prepares analytical reports for intergovernmental bodies;

Prepares studies and reports based on projections prepared by the Division;

Provides substantive support to Project LINK, advises national modelling centres, particularly in developing countries, in estimating and modifying national econometric models compatible with LINK.

2. MICRO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS DIVISION

The Division is responsible for the elaboration of global studies and perspectives on micro-economic and social development issues and policies, in order to assist the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies in their deliberations for developing and promoting an integrated view of the development process through economic, social and political linkages. It carries out policy-oriented analysis of the role, potential and shortcomings of market solutions to problems of allocation, distribution and regulation, particularly with regard to the provision of public goods, as well as analysis of such issues as social integration, human resource development, the impact of economic sanctions and the peace-development link.

The Division consists of two Branches, namely, the Micro-economic Issues and Analysis Branch and the Micro-economic Issues and Policies Branch and a unit dealing with documentation and information.

2.1. Micro-economic Issues and Analysis Branch

Carries out multisectoral research and analytical studies to assess global patterns, trends and prospects in socio-economic conditions and their implications for development strategies and policies at the national and international levels;

Examines the transformation of selected economic and social institutions, patterns of human resources development and social security and safety nets;

Identifies emerging social issues and contributes to the elaboration of policies and policy instruments available to Governments and international organizations;

Monitors the follow-up to summit meetings and international conferences relating to social development with particular reference to the promotion of social integration, the alleviation and eradication of poverty and the expansion of productive employment;

Produces the quadrennial Report on the World Social Situation and the biannual interim report on the subject;

Responds to increasing requests from Governments and intergovernmental bodies for information and analysis on the economic and social dimensions of various political issues and policies, in particular the areas of mutual concern to the Agenda for Peace and the Agenda for Development;

Prepares reports for the General Assembly and the Security Council, as required, on the impact of multilateral economic sanctions, coercive economic measures, the participation of affected countries in post-conflict reconstruction and the rehabilitation of crisis-stricken areas.

2.2. Micro-economic Issues and Policies Branch

Undertakes research and policy analysis on issues related to private sector development and the efficiency and effectiveness of market-oriented approaches in public enterprises;

Examines the role of individual agents and market mechanisms in fostering economic growth, increasing efficiency and distributional equity;

Carries out research into public expenditure patterns and tax systems, the provision of public goods and services and systems of transfers and redistribution;

Disseminates information on experiences with the application of market principles, including demonopolization, deregulation and privatization in the context of economic reforms in various countries;

Studies the effects of new technologies on earnings and labour markets, the determinants of investment behaviour, and the location of economic activity;

Prepares, as required, analytical reports for intergovernmental bodies.

3. POPULATION DIVISION

The Division is responsible for the provision of information and analyses on population trends and policies to Member States, intergovernmental bodies and the international community. This information includes the preparation of the United Nations population estimates, projections and studies on population growth, fertility, family planning, mortality, internal migration and urbanization, international migration, and the interrelationships between population and socio-economic factors such as women's status, ageing, sustainable development, resources and environment. It also examines and brings to the attention of the international community new and emerging issues, and serves as the secretariat for the Commission on Population and Development. The Division maintains a decentralized information/communication network for the coordination of regional, national and non-governmental population information activities, the Population Information Network (POPIN), and provides substantive support for related technical assistance projects.

The Division comprises two branches, namely, the Population Studies Branch and the Demographic Analysis Branch, and a unit dealing with management coordination and technical cooperation.

3.1. Population Studies Branch

The Board provides estimates of past trends of population and its demographic components and their projections to the future, studies of government policies that influence in these variables as well as consequences of demographic change for all aspects of sustainable development.

The Branch is comprised of three sections, namely, the Population Estimates and Projections Section, the Population Policy Section and the Population and Development Section.

3.1.1. Population Estimates and Projections Section

Prepares the official United Nations population estimates and projections for countries, their urban and rural areas and their major cities for all countries and areas of the world, culminating, inter alia, in the recurrent biennial publication of World Population Prospects and World Urbanization Prospects;

Conducts research and prepares studies related to past and possible future changes of population and their demographic components;

Prepares studies, conducts meetings, workshops and technical seminars in new and emerging issues such as the demographic impact of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), mega-city growth and structure and transition economies;

Produces computer databases on these topics for international distribution and develops computer software for demographic analysis and projections;

Contributes to substantive publications such as World Population Monitoring, Population Newsletter and Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

3.1.2. Population Policy Section

Conducts research and prepares studies in the area of population policy, including undertaking a biennial global assessment on a country by country basis of national population policies;

Carries out the United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments;

Prepares studies, conducts meetings, workshops and technical seminars in new and emerging issues such as abortion policies, international migration and refugee movements and population policies related to urban management;

Prepares databases on population policies (such as growth, fertility, mortality, internal migration and international migration);

Contributes to substantive publications such as World Population Monitoring, Population Newsletter and Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

3.1.3. Population and Development Section

Conducts research and prepares studies in the area of population and development, including analyses of the socio-economic determinants and consequences of demographic change and interrelationships among population phenomena, resources, environment and sustainable development;

Prepares studies and manuals, conducts meetings, workshops and technical seminars on new and emerging issues related to population and development, such as population and poverty, population and sustainable development and population, land use and deforestation;

Produces computer databases for international distribution and prepares software on issues relating to the integration of population and development;

Contributes to substantive publications such as World Population Monitoring, Population Newsletter and Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

3.2. Demographic Analysis Branch

The Branch conducts studies on the patterns, determinants and social, economic and cultural correlates of levels and trends of the major demographic components, namely, fertility, mortality, internal migration and international migration.

The Branch is comprised of two sections, namely, the Fertility and Family Planning Section and the Mortality and Migration Section.

3.2.1. Fertility and Family Planning Section

Conducts research and prepares studies in the area of fertility and family planning, including a global assessment of fertility levels and trends and contraceptive usage, on a country by country basis;

Prepares studies, conducts meetings, workshops and technical seminars on new and emerging issues such as the relationship of patterns of fertility with the status of women, the organization of family life and government programmes and policies;

Prepares technical manuals, computer software and databases for public information in the areas of its responsibility;

Contributes to substantive publications such as World Population Monitoring, Population Newsletter and Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

3.2.2. Mortality and Migration Section

Conducts research and prepares studies in the area of mortality, international migration and internal migration, on a country by country basis, including a global assessment of their levels and trends;

Prepares studies, conducts meetings, workshops and technical seminars in new and emerging issues such as mortality trends, changing causes and

consequences of mortality differences, the relationship between mortality levels and the status of women and spatial distribution and internal migration, and patterns of international migration, including migration for permanent resettlement, temporary migration of labour, undocumented or illegal migration and refugee movements;

Prepares technical manuals, computer software and databases for public information in the areas of its responsibility;

Contributes to substantive publications such as World Population Monitoring, Population Newsletter and Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

4. STATISTICS DIVISION

The Division is responsible for initiation and promotion of a coordinated system of international statistical programmes and activities by establishing international comparability of statistics through the standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions. It collects, processes, evaluates and disseminates international statistics and implements technical cooperation programmes in statistics through providing advisory services and training of statistical personnel, and provides secretariat services to the Statistical Commission, and reports to the General Assembly and other United Nations conferences and meetings on statistical matters.

The Division consists of six components, namely, the Economic Statistics Branch, the International Trade and Related Statistics Branch, the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, the Environment, Energy and Industrial Statistics Branch, the Statistical Services Branch and the Management and Technical Cooperation Services Section.

4.1. Economic Statistics Branch

Develops statistical concepts and methods for use by Member States, in the area of national accounts, economic classifications and price statistics;

Collects, compiles and disseminates national accounts and related statistics, such as international comparison of prices;

Produces the publication National Accounts Statistics;

Implements, through substantive technical support, methodologies for the compilation of national accounts and provides substantive support to technical cooperation activities in national accounts and related statistics and economic classifications.

4.2. International Trade and Related Statistics Branch

Develops statistical concepts and methods for use by Member States in the area of international trade and transport statistics;

Collects, compiles and disseminates international statistics in the area of trade and transport statistics;

Produces the publication International Trade Statistics Yearbook and maintains the international statistics database COMTRADE;

Provides substantive support for technical cooperation activities in trade and transport statistics.

4.3. Demographic and Social Statistics Branch

Develops statistical concepts and methods for use by Member States in the area of demographic and social statistics;

Collects, compiles and disseminates demographic and social statistics; produces the publication Demographic Yearbook, Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics;

Initiates preparations for the next population and housing census programme, including review of existing recommendations and development of additional recommendations as needed;

Develops methodologies for statistics, indicators and user-oriented databases on women and special population groups, including youth, children, the elderly and disabled;

Assists countries in implementing national household survey programmes aimed at obtaining integrated statistics on a regular basis on a wide range of social and socio-economic topics and at developing national instruments and skills for survey-taking;

Provides substantive support for technical cooperation activities in the area of demographic and social statistics which aim at assisting Member States in carrying out efficient censuses and at improvement of demographic and social statistics.

4.4. Environment, Energy and Industrial Statistics Branch

Develops statistical concepts and methods, for use by Member States, in the areas of environment, energy and industry statistics;

Collects, compiles and disseminates environment, energy and industry statistics;

Produces the publications Industrial Statistics Yearbook and Energy Statistics Yearbook;

Pursues the development of indicators of sustainable development in order to promote the increasing use of such indicators in satellite accounts and eventually in national accounts;

Provides substantive support for technical cooperation activities in the areas of environment, energy and industrial statistics.

4.5. Statistical Services Branch

Applies advanced technologies in collecting, processing and disseminating integrated statistics;

Produces the publications Statistical Yearbook, World Statistics in Brief and Monthly Bulletin of Statistics;

Provides substantive services and statistical expertise to various other United Nations bodies and units of the Secretariat, the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistics Programmes and the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and its subsidiary bodies.

4.6. Management and Technical Cooperation Services Section

Promotes coordination and integration of international statistical activities;

Provides statistical services to the General Assembly and other legislative bodies;

Provides programme support for technical cooperation activities in statistics;

Reviews incoming requests for technical cooperation in statistics from developing countries and economies in transition;

Maintains liaison with regional commissions, specialized agencies and other international organizations involved in international statistical activities;

Develops working contacts and coordinates with other United Nations programmes particularly with the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund;

Follows the work of relevant intergovernmental bodies with a view to identifying matters of concern to the programme on statistics.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS